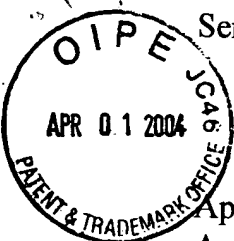


Serial No. 10/077,493



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/077,493 Confirmation No.: 5275
Applicant : Zongqin Xia et al.
Filed : February 15, 2002
Art Unit : 1623
Examiner : Elli Peselev
Title : STEROIDAL SAPOGENINS AND THEIR DERIVATIVES FOR
TREATING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Docket No.: : 380048-94 (HASEL-65749)
Customer No. : 24201

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED MARCH 17, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated March 17, 2004. In view of the Terminal Disclaimer submitted concurrently, the copies of the priority documents submitted concurrently, and the remarks below, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

This application is directed to a method of enhancing cognitive function in a human or a nonhuman animal by administering an active agent selected from group consisting of smilagenin and anzurogenin-D. Claims 33-59 are pending in the application. In the Office Action, all claims 33-59 are rejected for obviousness type double patenting over commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,258,386. Additionally, claims 33-59 are rejected as being anticipated, by or alternatively rendered obvious by, Ma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,593,301). Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action.